



Speakers biographies

19 October 2007

Following the order of the programme:



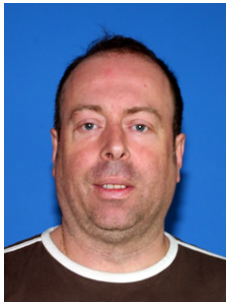
Robert Aldridge is FEANTSA president and was previously the UK researcher for the European Observatory on homelessness.

Robert has been the Director of the Scottish Council for Single Homeless, Scotland's national membership body for organisations and individuals tackling homelessness. He is a member of the national Homelessness Monitoring Group. He was previously a member of the Scottish Executive's Homelessness Task Force and Health & Homelessness Steering Group as well as the Rough Sleepers' Initiative Advisory Group.

He was co-author of the Scottish Executive's National Health & Homelessness Standards. Robert chaired the housing satellite group of the Scottish Refugee Integration Forum and was a member of the steering group for the recent Code of Guidance on Homelessness.



Silke Paasche is Communications Officer in FEANTSA, where she has worked for almost two years. In addition to Communications, Silke coordinates FEANTSA's employment working group and policy work on employment. She has been closely involved in the preparation of the Annual Theme 2007 and in the drafting of this year's European Report.



Antonio Rodriguez has been working since 1986 in a centre for people experiencing homelessness in Madrid, the Fundación B. San Martin de Porres. He has a degree in social work and has been the director of the Fundación for the last 15 years. Antonio has been the president of Faciam for 8 years, and participates actively in the initiatives for people experiencing homelessness such as the enRed.psh. Antonio was the national correspondent for the FEANTSA European Observatory on Homelessness from 1990-1992, He is currently the Spanish representative on the FEANTSA AC, and is a member of the employment working group.



Linda Butcher is Chief Executive of Off the Streets and Into Work (OSW), a charity providing skills and employment services to people who are homeless or at risk of becoming so. Since 2004 Linda has been actively involved in FEANTSA's work in the area of employment. She was Business Development Worker for St Mungo's in the early 1990s, managing training and employment projects that supported homeless individuals, and combined social and commercial objectives.

Up to 2001 Linda worked for the Central London Training and Enterprise Council (later the Learning and Skills Council), where she and her team were responsible for the organisation's work on childcare,



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social inclusion and area regeneration across central London. Since joining in 2001, she has helped OSW to become a unique and effective model of delivery and strategy, working at regional, national and European levels on homelessness, employment, and multiple disadvantage.



Ana Bermúdez Odriozola, (Barcelona 1959) studied Law at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid and is a civil servant working on social security issues.

In 1984, she was working at the National Institute for Social Security (Barcelona) and for a fund responsible for the guaranty of salary levels (Barcelona, Zaragoza and Huesca).

Since 1991 she has been working for the Directorate of the Regional Ministry for Work and Social Affairs in Zaragoza.

In 1996, she became manager of the Social Economy services of the Directorate General of Work and coordinator of the Regional Employment Plan for Aragón. Since January 2000, Ana is Director of the Employment Services of Aragón (INAEM).

Ludo Lathouwers is responsible for the de Wroeter Arbeidscentrum (Belgium). De Wroeter is an employment and education project for people experiencing homelessness; they grow fruit and vegetables, do “green work” for local governments as well as maintenance work. The organisation was created 25 years ago and only 50% of the project is financed by the government. It is now regarded as an example of good practice in Belgium.



Ole Meldgaard has been involved in activation projects for homeless and socially excluded groups since 1986 at Kofoed’s School in Copenhagen, first as a teacher and as head of department.

Today Ole is a chief consultant and works with Kofoed’s School’s organisational, national and international development.

Ole has transferred the methods and the model of Kofoed’s School to several countries and has been involved in setting up similar schools and projects aiming to improve the skills of excluded groups.

Ole has written books about the methods of Kofoed’s School and how to activate people with additional problems, and an interview-book about the life of socially excluded people. Ole is a member of the FEANTSA employment working group.

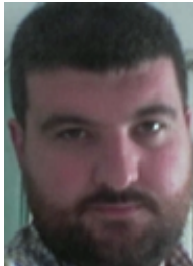
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Anne-Marie van Bergen has been working in Movisie, Netherlands centre for social development, since 2002 as senior consultant and project manager.

Themes: wellbeing, social and vocational participation and the rehabilitation of vulnerable people such as people who are homeless and people with addiction problems, psychiatric patients and people with physical or mental handicaps; public mental health; cooperation between local government, social work, public welfare, mental health and vocational rehabilitation agencies and client organisations; out reach care; client empowerment and advocacy; client participation; introduction of organisations and local workers to the themes and issues of the new Dutch Social Support Act (Wmo). Before, Anne-Maire worked as a psychologist in a mental health organisation for 16 years.



Paolo Pezzana, born in Genoa in 1973, is President of the Italian Federation of Organisations providing services for homeless people (FIO.psd). He worked from 1999 to January 2006 in Genoa as board member of the Auxilium Foundation where he was chief of the emergency unit for people who are homeless. Since January 2006 he has been working predominantly in the national Italian Caritas, in Rome, as social policy desk officer.



Andy Shields is St. Mungo's Director of Work and Learning. St. Mungo's, is a large London based homelessness organisation. His role involves managing a programme of employment and training interventions for people who are homeless. These schemes are funded from a variety of government sources and are heavily reliant on European structural funds. The balance of the project funding is drawn from charitable sources.

Andy has been involved with FEANTSA's employment working group since its formation in 2001 and is very interested in European policy and the impact it has on the domestic agenda and in sharing best practice. Andy has been working with people experiencing homelessness since the mid 1980's in a variety of roles ranging from street outreach work, to hostel work to his present involvement with work and learning.

Danny Lescrauwaet, Steunpunt Algemeen Welzijnswerk, Belgium
Danny is the chair of the FEANTSA participation working group and AC member for Belgium.



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Teresa Soró was born in Zaragoza, Spain, in 1953. She is married, and she is the mother of three daughters and the proud grandmother of her little grandson.

She acts as the Leading Manager of Fundación Picarral at Zaragoza since 1992. She also has been the Director of TOPI Hospitality School for 14 years. Teresa has a core education in Business Administration and she is a habilitated Social Educator.

In 1995 Zaragoza Town Council awarded Teresa the title of *Favourite Daughter of the City* for her significant contribution to the vocational and social insertion of young people in the Picarral neighbourhood.

She has participated in the generation and development of Fundación Picarral and all its projects. Those projects include vocational training schools, enterprises of social insertion and special employment centres, and, finally, tutelage homes.



Paolo Brusa, psychologist; works on a free-lance basis as consultant, project manager, supervisor and trainer in the field of social exclusion for various organisations, such as NGOs, FIOpsd, Municipalities and SSGIs on local and national level; partner of projects financed by the EU Commission; member of the FEANTSA working group on employment since 2006; creator and developer of Multipolis, a methodology for training and supervision specifically created to facilitate the translation of the holistic approach into a practical experience in order to favour paths to awareness-raising concerning social, professional and personal dynamics, in a logical framework focused on methodological skills in giving/taking care.



Bill Williams is The Connection at St. Martin's manager for Employment, Training & Education services. The Connection at St. Martin's is a large central London based Day Centre for homeless people. His role involves managing a comprehensive programme of employment and training for its core client group and those at risk of becoming homeless. These programmes are funded from a variety of central government sources as well as from the European Social Fund. Other funding sources for these services come from several private corporates who play an active role in the provision of work placement programmes.

Bill has been working with people who are homeless and community groups since 1990 in a variety of roles ranging from Youth Work, Hostel & Resettlement work to his present involvement in the development and provision of employment and training.



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Eric Pliez, 50 years old, specialised educator, with a degree from the Cafdes (national school for public health) in 1988. He has worked with people with mental illness and addiction problems.

Eric has been the director of the Aurore association since 1985, which has 500 employees and supports 3000 persons. He has several other functions, including member of FNARS and president of the employment-skills commission.



Jorge Nuño The most important: He is happily married and has two wonderful children and lives in a rural village near Madrid. Concerning his professional background: he studied Social Pedagogies in Germany and law in Spain. He has been working, since 1990, in the social field in different NGOs with the unemployed, volunteers, drug users and on rural development. The connecting threads during this time have been employment - labour integration for disadvantaged or excluded people and European Social Policy. Speaking and lecturing in different universities and organisations, as well as writing publications allowed him to systematise his professional experience. He is currently working in Caritas Spain at national level in the Employment Programme, giving advice and support to 70 Diocesan and Regional Caritas Organisations.



Christina Mc Taggart lives and works in Dublin, Ireland. Trained as a nurse, Christina worked with the Health Service Executive in Ireland and spent six years in humanitarian aid working in Africa and Asia. Christina has worked with the Irish NGO, Focus Ireland housing and homeless charity, for the past eight years. Focus Ireland works to prevent people becoming, remaining or returning to homelessness through the provision of quality services, supported housing, research and advocacy. Christina has held a number of different roles within Focus Ireland including Director of Services and she is currently their Director of Advocacy, with responsibility for communications, research, and policy within the organisation. Christina has just completed a Masters in International Peace Studies at Trinity College Dublin. Christina is member of the FEANTSA employment working group since 2005.



Jeremy Swain is Chief Executive of Thames Reach, a voluntary sector organisation that works with more than 4,000 rough sleepers and other vulnerable persons experiencing homelessness in London, every year, providing a wide range of services including education, training and employment projects. He is a non-executive Director of StreetShine, a social business employing former homeless people to provide a shoe care service to corporate businesses, as well as the London Housing Foundation. He chairs the Pan-London Providers' Group comprising the Chief Executives of seven of the largest providers of homelessness



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services in London, is an active member of ACEVO (the Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations) and sits on the Business Action on Homelessness London Steering Group.



Maria José Aldanas is a Lawyer at the Social Action Department of Provienda, a Spanish Association that provides housing services for to vulnerable groups. The Social Action Department of the Association oversees the programmes addressed to persons experiencing homelessness.

Maria José completed a masters degree in Migration law in 1999, at the Autonomous University of Madrid. Since then she has worked with the Spanish Section of MSF 4th world Project in Madrid and Provienda (Social Centre for Immigrants in several districts of Madrid and the Association legal department). She is currently in charge of the Programmes addressed to Immigrant people. Maria José has been a member of the FEANTSA Housing Working Group since September 2006.



Caroline Klein is in charge of European projects and activities at ACSC (*Association des Cités du Secours Catholique/Caritas France*) since 2003.

She is managing two EQUAL projects together with Association Emmäus, La Mie de Pain and FIT and is involved in the 4 inclusion European partnership.

Before joining ACSC, she has had five years of NGO work experience in evaluation and participation processes in Brazil. Caroline holds Master Degrees in Corporate social responsibility, Human Rights and sustainable development practices as well as Business and economics.



Jakub Wilczek is the coordinator of the 'Wyprowadzić na prostą' ('Back on Track') Project implemented in Poland by St. Brother Albert's Aid Society under the Community Initiative EQUAL. The main objective of the Project is to consolidate the actions of various institutions in order to elaborate common, hitherto innovative, activities, attempting to help people who are homeless and those threatened by homelessness, who face many difficulties in accessing the labour market. He has worked with the Society since 2005. In 2007 he became a member of the Society's Main Board.



Jeffrey de Putter has been working for the last ten years for a welfare organization called CVD in Rotterdam. One of the fields in which the organisation is active, is providing temporary accommodation for people experiencing homelessness. In the past he has been manager Night and Day Shelters, manager of Social Boarding Houses, manager of Activation and Work. Over the last years he has been the project leader



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of Home Sweet Home (largely funded by ESF Equal). The goal of this project is to reintegrate people experiencing homelessness back into the labour market, or try to reach the highest level of participation in society.



Ricky Rowledge has been Director of the Council for the Homeless (NI - Northern Ireland) since 1997, the sole umbrella body representing homelessness agencies throughout NI.

Qualified as a social worker, she had her first experience of working with people who are homeless while on placement with a night shelter in Belfast.

She currently sits on a number of policy and practice working groups including the Northern Ireland Homelessness Strategy Steering Group, the Rough Sleepers Forum, and the PSI working group on homelessness. Ricky is an alternate on the Joint Government/Voluntary and Community Sector Forum and is a board member of Dismas House and Belfast Community Housing Association. She is joint Chair of the Committee Representing Independent Supporting People Providers and Chairperson of the Voluntary Sector Housing Policy Forum.



Michele Calandrino is a policy analyst in DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, European Commission. His responsibilities include active inclusion strategies for disadvantaged groups, homelessness and housing exclusion. Previously he was in the employment analysis unit, dealing with transitional labour markets, precarious employment, active ageing and labour mobility.

Calandrino holds a *laurea cum laude* in *Economia e Commercio* (University of Bologna) and an MPhil in Economics (University of Oxford). Following his studies, he worked as a researcher at the Institute of Development Studies, Sussex University. He then moved to the Department for Work and Pensions (UK Government) where he was an assistant economist in the housing benefit unit and in the poverty and social exclusion division and then an economic adviser, leading the local labour markets team.



Cathal Morgan is Director of the Homeless Agency, where he is responsible for the overall monitoring and co-ordination of the Homeless Agency Partnership's Action Plan "A Key to the Door", working towards the 2010 vision of the elimination of long-term homelessness and the need for people to sleep rough in Dublin. Prior to his appointment, Cathal was the National Drug Strategy Manager for the Health Service Executive. Cathal has over ten years experience working in the intellectual disability, mental health, youth at risk/ in care and mediation/ guidance field. He holds a BA in Psychoanalytic Studies and an MSc in Clinical Psychotherapy and is currently conducting PhD research into the area of suicide amongst young people.



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Michel Mercadié is Vice President of FEANTSA and chair of FEANTSA's employment working group. His background has been largely an academic one (he was a senior lecturer in Arts) and he has combined his professional life in teaching with other activities: initially with political work as an elected representative at local level, (municipal councillor, representative on the regional council of the Franche-Comté region and general councillor) and latterly with work with the NGO sector. Since 1983 he has been the President of a Besançon-based organisation working generally on social integration (Doubs). He has recently retired, but continues to hold the position of Secretary General of the French Umbrella Organisations FNARS (National Federation of Organisations working on social reintegration).



Thomas Specht is a sociologist, and has been working with German FEANTSA member BAG W since 1977 of which he has been the Director since 2003. He is a founding member of FEANTSA - he has been a member of AC and EC in different positions since then.



Bayla Kolk is the Associate Assistant Deputy Minister of Income Security and Social Development, Human Resources and Social Development Canada (HRSDC). In this position, she is responsible for the policy and program direction of Canada's Homelessness Partnering Strategy and management of other social policies and programs related to community development, persons with disabilities and seniors.

Ms. Kolk has held other executive positions at HRSDC, including Associate Assistant Deputy Minister - Ontario Region. She was also Director General, Aboriginal Relations, responsible for the policy and program direction of the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy and the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership.

Ms. Kolk previously held senior positions at Canada's Privy Council Office, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, and Transport Canada.